

Proxy Access to GP Online Services - Information Leaflet for Children

What is Proxy Access?

Proxy access is a way for parents or guardians to view and manage their children's online health records. It allows them to access important information about their child's health, such as medical history, test results, appointments, and medications, through secure online platforms.

Benefits of Proxy Access:

1. **Better Communication:** Proxy access helps parents and guardians stay informed about their child's health, allowing them to have meaningful conversations and support their well-being.
2. **Coordination of Care:** By accessing online health records, parents and guardians can coordinate appointments, medications, and treatments more effectively with healthcare professionals.
3. **Emergency Situations:** In case of emergencies, proxy access allows parents or guardians to quickly access vital health information to ensure appropriate and timely care.

Risks and Considerations:

1. **Privacy Concerns:** Sharing health information with parents or guardians may raise concerns about privacy. It's important to discuss what information will be accessible and ensure that personal and sensitive data remains confidential.
2. **Confidentiality with Healthcare Providers:** Some young people may feel more comfortable discussing personal health matters directly with healthcare providers. Proxy access might influence how open they are during consultations.
3. **Autonomy and Independence:** Allowing proxy access means parents or guardians can monitor their child's health more closely. Some young people may value their independence and prefer managing their health information themselves.

Making Informed Decisions:

1. **Open Dialogue:** Talk to your parents or guardians about proxy access. Discuss your concerns, ask questions, and make sure you understand how it will affect your privacy and autonomy.
2. **Consent and Control:** Remember that your consent is essential in deciding whether to allow proxy access. Ensure that you have control over the types of information your parents or guardians can access and set clear boundaries.
3. **Collaboration:** Find a balance between involving your parents or guardians in your healthcare decisions and maintaining your autonomy. Consider involving them in discussions with healthcare providers to ensure everyone is on the same page.

Protecting Your Privacy:

1. **Secure Passwords:** Use strong, unique passwords for your online health accounts and never share them with anyone, including your parents or guardians.
2. **Notification Settings:** Check the notification settings on your online health platforms. You can receive alerts when your health information is accessed, helping you stay aware and in control.
3. **Ask for Help:** If you have concerns about privacy, seek guidance from a trusted adult, teacher, or healthcare provider. They can provide advice and support in navigating this important decision.

Remember, the choice of allowing proxy access to your online health records is personal. By discussing the benefits and risks with your parents or guardians, you can make an informed decision that respects both your privacy and your well-being.

Allowing proxy access does not need to be a permanent agreement and you can change your decision at any time by contacting the practice in one of the following ways

- Call 0151 295 8700 between 9am – 6:30pm
- Email changemydetails.seftonpark@nhs.net
- In person at the Practice reception desk between 9am – 6:30pm

On your 16th birthday proxy access to your records will stop and will need to be applied for again if required. Your consent will be needed, and you can decide again at that time if you wish for it to be granted